

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12 EB-07 NRC-05

TRSE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 AID-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /085 W

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O R 220020Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8639

INFO USCINCSO

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 5831

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR MASS PBOR MILI GT

SUBJECT: USG ARMS POLICY FOR GUATEMALA

REF: SECDEF P 172134Z OCT 75

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WHILE IT NECESSARY THAT APPROVAL FOR THE SALE AND TRANSFER TO GOG OF SIGNIFICANT NEW MILITARY EQUIPMENT BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE DANGER OF A MILITARY CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE GOG AND UK HAS DIMINISHED, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF ROUTINE RESUPPLY ITEMS BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE UNIMPEDED. SHOULD GOG COME TO BELIEVE THAT AN EMBARGO HAS BEEN PLACED ON EVEN ROUTINE PIPELINE ITEMS THE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE SERIOUS AND OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN OUR ALREADY LIMITED DEGREE OF INFLUENCE ON GOG POLICY WOULD BE REDUCED.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE GOG UNDERSTAND THAT ONCE THE BELIZE QUESTION HAS BEEN RESLOVED AND THE DANGER OF A CONFRNTATION  
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WITH THE UK REDUCED THE US STANDS READY TO RESUME

ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE AS THE PRINCIPAL ARMS SUPPLIER TO THE GOG. THIS WOULD INCLUDE MAKING THE M-16 RIFLE AVAILABLE TO REPLACE THE M-1, WHICH THEY PURCHASED ON OUR RECOMMENDATION BUT FOR WHICH SUPPORT WILL BE UNAVAILABLE AFTER 1978. OTHERWISE, WE WILL BE LEAVING THE GOG NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO SEEK OTHER SUPPLIERS, PRESUMABLY THE ISRAELIS OR THE EUROPEANS.

3. MEANTIME REQUESTS FOR DELIVERY OF ROUTINE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR EXISTING SYSTEMS, SUCH AS THEIR REQUEST FOR 300 ROUNDS OF 57MM RECOILLESS RIFLE AMMUNITION (REFTEL), SHOULD BE ROUTINELY APPROVED FOR REGULAR SHIPHENT, JUST AS THEY WOULD BE WERE THERE NO BELIZE PROBLEM. THESE ITEMS WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE GUATEMALA'S MILITARY CAPABILITY.

4. IN CERTAIN "IN BETWEEN" CASES THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FLEXIBILITY# AFFORDED BY DELIVERY LEAD TIME

SCHEDULING. THIS RECENTLY ALLOWED THE EMBASSY TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE SALE OF THREE HELICOPTERS TO THE GOG ON CONDITION THAT DELIVERY BE DELAYED UNTIL LATE 1977 WHEN THE BELIZE ISSUE IS LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED OR HAVE ENTERED ANOTHER DORMANT STAGE.

5. DURING THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD FOR THE GOG, WHILE WE MUST ENSURE THAT WE DO NOTHING TO ENCOURAGE OR ASSIST A MILITARY ADVENTURE IN BELIZE, WE ALSO WANT TO TRY TO MAINTAIN AS NORMAL A RELATIONSHIP AS POSSIBLY IN BOTH THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SECTORS. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THIS POLICY OBJECTIVE CAN BEST BE MET BY ROUTINELY APPROVING STANDARD RESUPPLY REQUESTS AND DEFERRING BUT NOT DENYING OTHER REQUESTS.

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